

Principal's Annual Report
Old Rochester Regional High School
2021

Michael Devoll – Principal
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Our Towns

Our school serves three southeastern Massachusetts towns: Mattapoisett; Marion; and, Rochester. All three towns have maintained their individual charm through careful and thoughtful community planning. Marion and Mattapoisett are quaint, close-knit seaside communities. Rochester has a more rural landscape surrounded by scenic farms, cranberry bogs, pine forests and fresh water ponds. Residents are proud of their school systems and have been very supportive in passing legislation to ensure its continued success.

Our School

The 2020-2021 school year featured a student body made up of 715 students, including 72 students attending Old Rochester Regional High School through the School Choice Program. Our student body resides in the communities of the Tri-Town: Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. Through the School Choice Program, the school was able to welcome residents of the following communities to our school: Acushnet, Fairhaven, Lakeville, Middleboro, New Bedford, and Wareham. In 2021, ORRHS graduated a class of 189 seniors. ORRHS offers a comprehensive curriculum with a wide selection of Honors and Advanced Placement courses. During the 2020-2021 school year, 224 ORRHS students took 422 Advanced Placement tests with 71% of students receiving a qualifying score of 3 or better. In 2021, approximately 94% of ORR graduates continued their education at two or four-year colleges.

Our Faculty

Of the 61 faculty members at ORRHS, 78% have their Master's degree and 3% have their Doctoral degree. The school has a 14.5 to 1 student to teacher ratio.

Accreditation

Principal of Old Rochester Regional High School in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, Michael Devoll was pleased to report that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, voted for continued accreditation for Old Rochester Regional High School at their April 2019 meeting. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, founded in 1885, is the oldest accrediting agency in the country and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable agency to award accreditation to New England Schools. The Association is a voluntary accrediting agency of more than 2000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities, and vocational, technical, and career institutions. Of these, approximately 630 high schools, middle/high schools and PreK-12 schools have been accredited through the Association's Commission on Public Schools.

Mock Trial

The Mock Trial club participated in a virtual tournament in January and February while competing in turn as both the prosecution and defense in a simulated criminal case involving a manslaughter charge associated with the operation of a self-driving vehicle. It was a fascinating case and an interesting adaptation of standard Mock Trial procedures, as students had to learn to conduct themselves in a virtual courtroom setting on top of their usual responsibilities. Seniors Daphne Poirier and Maya Blouin continued as student leaders of the club, which also welcomed a number of new underclassmen members this year.

National Honor Society

During the 2020-2021 school year, the National Honor Society was busy serving their peers, school, and community through many initiatives and activities. In the fall of 2020, we expanded our tutoring program to include the junior high school and all of the elementary schools in the district. Students also reached out to local nursing homes during the holidays to send support to senior citizens. In order to foster community and positivity, they started positivity campaigns throughout the district. Our members also created educational and craft packets, complete with activities for elementary students to complete over vacations. Throughout the year, students also supported and promoted the Book Dash campaign begun by our librarian, Allison Barker, to ensure access to books during the pandemic. They continued to work with our school psychologist, Phil Allesse, to promote positive mental health through Zoom events. To promote activities, members started an Instagram page and maintained our Facebook page. They planned an outdoor induction for new members and a recognition ceremony for current members to close out the school year.

Debate Team

The Old Rochester Regional High School Debate Team had a successful year in 2020-21 within the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League (EMDL). The COVID pandemic caused two major changes to debate. First all debates took place virtually and second, the size the team nearly doubled as many students seized the opportunity to take part in a virtual school activity. This season the debaters argued the following resolution Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing. Strong debate performances were made by seniors Emma Vivino, Bess Pierre, Payton Lord, Katelyn Luong, and Serena O'Connell. The Old Rochester Regional Varsity Debate Team was the 3rd highest ranked four-person team in the league and Junior was the highest ranked varsity affirmative speaker in the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League. Juniors Mackenzie Wilson, Sophia Martins, Max Vivino and Sam Harris also had strong seasons. In 2021-22 the Debate Team is arguing the following resolution: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States.

Class of 2021

In the 2020-2021 school year, the Class of 2021 made an active effort to continue fundraising in anticipation of future senior events. They held dine-out nights in addition

to other fundraising efforts in anticipation of the Senior Prom. The class organized a Senior Sunrise event at Silvershell Beach to kick off the new school year. In the spring, the class was able to hold their annual Ned's Point day where families donated lunch, drinks, and snacks for the class to enjoy. The class was also able to create the aerial class number photo on the football field in the spring. Finally, the class of 2021 was able to put together a beautiful outdoor Senior Prom at Shining Tides to which almost 150 of our seniors attended. The class of 2021 had a very successful senior year!

Class of 2022

The COVID pandemic kept the class of 2022 from holding many activities in the spring of 2021. As the COVID restrictions eased over the summer, the class was able to start planning for an exciting Senior year. They kicked off their Senior year by holding their semi-formal dance in late August. They were then able to hold the traditional class field trip to Ned's Point in October. The class has been able to host 2 successful fundraisers in the fall of 2021. Once again, they held a Trunk-or-Treat on campus for the children of the Tri-Town. They also held a Spike Ball tournament at the high school. The advisors and officers continue to plan other traditional senior activities such as the senior superlatives, the senior breakfast, and the prom. At this time the class has plans to hold the prom in Newport, RI on May 31st.

Class of 2023

The Class of 2023 plugged along since fall and successfully raised money through the following fundraisers: 3 v 3 Basketball Competition, Gift Wrapping, 3 Point Basketball Competition. The class is in the process of planning their Junior Prom. They are holding it on campus in May, as well as having it locally catered.

American Field Service

The American Field Service (better known as the AFS Club) empowers students to become globally engaged citizens by delivering meaningful intercultural experiences that provide the knowledge and skill needed to help create a more just and peaceful world. AFS is open to all students who enjoy traveling and meeting new people. 2020-2021 was a tough year for the social club. The club was unable to travel to Waterford Union High School in Wisconsin for the annual short-term domestic exchange or to New York City. The club did have the Halloween pumpkin carving contest, but no International Dinner. AFS is looking forward to continuing cultural exchanges again.

Community Services Learning

The 2020-21 school year began with excitement to be meeting in person again and the club continued to welcome new members with excitement, energy, and commitment to give back to our Tri-Town community. CSL offers yearly volunteer opportunities and even enjoys adding new ones so students can participate on their own. The club meets once a week after school. The CSL co-advisors, Karen Browning and Andrea Moniz help to advise students as they take on student leadership roles on various community service projects that are new and on-going projects. Once again, this year, under the leadership of our students, the CSL Club collected 644 pairs of socks for their "SOCKTOBER" event in October. It was another huge success and the socks were

donated to The Women's Center in New Bedford. As October came to a close, the CSL Club turned its focus to our December group event in collaboration with Toys for Tots called "Stuff a Cruiser". This year CSL was able to collect even more toys for local children than in previous years! The club appreciated the generosity of Tri-Town residents for making this the most successful year yet! They would like to especially recognize Turks Restaurant for making such a large donation of toys for the event! Among these group volunteer activities, CSL has had several individual volunteer opportunities brought to the group by students and led by students, such as volunteering on weekends at Damien's Pantry. The CSL Club also has been informed of opportunities brought from the community, such as with the Mattapoissett Land Trust and Sippican Land Trust properties and at the Mattapoissett Library. This year the CSL Club has made a wonderful connection with VASE from Sippican School in Marion. Students have volunteered in various events and opportunities with the students. Some of them included the Holiday Shop event and the After Class Enrichment (ACE) Homework Help. Another awesome community connection the CSL Club has made is with the Tri-Town Anti-Racism group helping with positive messages and bulletin boards at Sippican. Our students made a poster for the custodial staff to show our appreciation for all that they do both inside and outside of our buildings. The club will plan a beach clean-up in the spring and we will cap off our successful year in May of 2022, where the club will honor students who have submitted their community service hours that have earned them the "President's Volunteer Service Award", an award where students earn either a gold, silver, or bronze medal depending on the number of their volunteer hours along with a signed letter from the President of the United States thanking them for their community service.

Unified Athletics

The ORR Unified Basketball completed their third season with 5 wins and 2 close losses. The ORR Unified Basketball team featured a total of 19 partners and athletes with diverse abilities. The team was excited to welcome their fans back this year, providing them with show stopping performances on the court! Over the past several years, the teammates have developed a strong bond with one another. It will be hard to say goodbye to the 8 seniors who helped to build the foundation for ORR Unified Basketball. The ORR Unified Basketball team epitomizes diversity, inclusion, grit, and teamwork. Each Unified player contributes their indelible mark on the court and demonstrates to the ORR school and local community what it means to be "unified."

Art Students

Despite the limitations due to Covid the ORRHS art students still managed to connect to our world and community through the visual arts. Students in the art department had their art on display throughout the tri town and beyond. Twelve students submitted AP art and Design portfolios and all received a passing score or higher. Five students received a score of 5. Students entered local and regional art shows and earned recognition. Taylor Green received a Silver Key for her multimedia painting "Schooled". Margaret Berry received Honorable Mention for her photograph "Veiled Love". Autumn Tilley won first place in the Emerging Young Artist contest sponsored by College of Visual & Performing Arts at UMass Dartmouth. The Marion Arts Center hosted a show of local

high school artists. ORRHS had over twenty pieces on display with artwork by Christopher Knight winning Best in Show. Students in the Visual Design class collaborated with the Mattapoissett Land Trust to create illustrations for the “story walk” at Grace’s Pond. They also were one of 250 students chosen nationally to participate in Vans Custom Culture design contest. Students worked collaboratively to come up with a design that symbolizes the theme “Head in the Clouds”. They then created the design on the Vans slip on shoes that were sent to the school. Art students in Art 1 collaborated with Ms. Wickman’s Monsters Murder and Madness class to create visual representations of the literary monsters they created based on modern day fears. Students used the intaglio printing method to create their visual representations in the form of a print.

Music Department

During the 2020-2021 school year, many of the annual music events occurred virtually. The Music Department had one student accepted to the Southeast District Junior Music Festival, two students accepted to the Southeast District Senior Music Festival, and two accepted to the All-State Music Festival. All of the festivals rehearsed virtually, then the students participated in creating videos of their group performances. In school, all of the music ensembles focused their attention on creating audio and video recordings of their performances. Recording individually was a new experience for most of the students, and was an incredible learning experience for everyone involved. In the end, each ensemble created between 2-5 audio recordings, and at least one full length video. Many of these videos were posted online for the public to watch, with two shown live at the December 2021 Winter Concert.

Gender-Sexuality Alliance

The ORRHS GSA had a very successful year advocating for education and policy change in the school district to create a more inclusive community. Over the course of three presentations, the GSA leadership, Parker Simpson and Alia Cusolito, provided staff training on LGBTQ+ issues. The topics included basic education on LGBT terms and identities, respecting trans students and their needs, and creating and integrating LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum. In April, the GSA hosted the GLSEN Day of Silence and curated a bulletin board outside of the nurses' office on LGBT+ Mental Health and how students are affected by current events. In May, the GSA gave a presentation to the ORR Policy Subcommittee on changes the district can make to be more inclusive in the handbook and in our school's policies and procedures. During Pride Month, the GSA partnered with the Mattapoissett Museum for an education series on the museum's Instagram. These posts covered topics such as Boston Marriages, Local Historical Queer Authors and Literature, the history of GSAs, and the Stonewall Riots. In addition, our members were also involved with other groups including TriTown Against Racism (TTAR), the ORR Antiracism Subcommittee, Massachusetts Commission for LGBTQ Youth, and GLSEN MA Shine Team.

Student Newspaper

The Paw Prints student newspaper continued its work through the use of remote meetings throughout the school year. Ultimately, the staff were able to produce both online content and a couple of print issues later in the year as we adjusted to safety and sanitation

protocols. While this was a challenging year logistically, the club was able to establish an incredibly devoted leadership team who put together a strong apparatus for a return to in-person meetings in 2021-2022.

Sci-Fi Club

The Sci-Fi club existed remotely during the 2021-2022 school year. While the group missed some of the face-to-face interactions, they were able to track down and make use of fun online resources. The club even conducted a zoom-based roleplaying campaign as part of a campaign to meet and play games together safely. The club walked out of the year with a team of student leaders who were eager to hit the ground running in the 2021-2022 school year.

Student Council

The 2020-2021 school year was a year unlike any other in the history of Old Rochester. Despite this most challenging and unique school year, Student Council (STUCO) remained actively involved in promoting positive school spirit and supporting students and activities within the school. STUCO started the school year by organizing and running secure online elections for the new freshmen class. STUCO once again collaborated with The Boosters Club and helped fund another hydration station which was installed in the gym. STUCO also purchased a new, customized bulldog flag, a Massachusetts flag, and an American flag to be flown on the flagpole at the front of the school. In October, STUCO hosted a remote/hybrid "Spirit Week" with a friendly cohort competition of themed dress-up days. In December, STUCO held its first ever virtual Club Hub to highlight our many clubs and activities. As we pivoted to full, in-person learning in April, STUCO hosted a second spirit week with fun themed dress-up days to help ease students' transitions back into school. In the spring, STUCO once again made a contribution to the Garden Club to help support and maintain the gardens and plantings on the school campus. In May, STUCO E-Board, senators and class officers wrote "Thank You" emails to staff in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week. The year culminated with STUCO presenting four deserving seniors from the Class of 2021 with \$500 "Unsung Hero" scholarships. All in all, Student Council carried on despite the challenging circumstances and was there to help and support the school community, no matter what learning model we were in.

Math Team

The ORR mathematics team competed in virtual meets via zoom for the duration of the 20-21 season. The league felt that interested students would benefit from the challenging mathematics offered through the meet opportunities and all interested schools were invited to attend all four meets and the traditional playoff meet. No awards were given for high scoring teams and individuals but students participated for "the love of the game." Students competed at home via zoom with their own teammates and coach at each of the schools participating. ORR's own Sakurako Huynh-Aoyama participated from across the globe, in Japan, at every meet!! Dedicated math team members attended every meet that they could. The year's seniors include Evan Smith, Emma Williamson, Daphne Poirier, Rebecca Milde and Jonathan Pereira,

Once again, the Old Rochester Regional High School proved to be first-class and continued the school's history of excellence. Students and staff congratulated Sheilah Sullivan and Jim Morton on their retirements after long and storied careers at Old Rochester.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Devoll
Principal